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## B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for processing an electronic voting message, said method comprising:  
compiling a voter data list that includes a plurality of  
authorized voters;  
sending the voter data list to a mail forwarding service,  
wherein the mail forwarding service sends one or more  
vote requests to one or more of the plurality of  
authorized voters;  
receiving the electronic voting message from a client;  
determining, based on the voter data list, whether the  
client is authorized to vote;  
in response to determining that the client is authorized to  
vote, performing the following:  
removing an identity of the client from the electronic  
voting message, wherein the removing results in  
an anonymous message; and  
identifying one or more votes in the anonymous  
message[.]; and  
in response to determining that the client is not  
authorized to vote, disregarding the electronic voting  
message.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim [[2]]  
1 further comprising:  
sending a confirmation message to the client, the  
confirmation message including a summary of the  
determination.

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4. (Currently Amended) The method as described in claim [[2]]  
1 wherein the determining further comprises:  
retrieving the identity of the client; and  
comparing the identity of the client to one or more of the  
plurality of authorized identifiers voters retrieved  
from [[a]] the voter data store. list.
5. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein one  
of the votes includes a freeform comment.
6. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further  
comprising:  
modifying a total number of votes, the modifying further  
including:  
adding the one or more votes to the total number of  
votes.
7. (Original) The method as described on claim 6 further  
comprising:  
sending the total number of votes to a receiving server,  
wherein the receiving server is adapted to include the  
total number of votes with other received votes.
8. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the  
electronic message is selected from the group consisting of  
a phone-in message, a private client email message, a  
public client email message, a hypertext transfer protocol  
message, a computer network message, an Active X message,  
and a Java message.
9. (Currently Amended) An information handling system  
comprising:  
one or more processors;

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a memory accessible by the processors;  
one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the  
processors;  
an electronic voting message handling tool to manage an  
electronic voting message stored on one of the  
nonvolatile storage devices, the electronic voting  
message handling tool including:  
means for compiling a voter data list that includes a  
plurality of authorized voters;  
means for sending the voter data list to a mail forwarding  
service, wherein the mail forwarding service sends one  
or more vote requests to one or more of the plurality  
of authorized voters;  
means for receiving the electronic voting message from a  
client;  
means for determining, based on the voter data list,  
whether the client is authorized to vote;  
means for removing an identity of the client from the  
electronic voting message in response to determining  
that the client is authorized to vote, wherein the  
removing results in an anonymous message; [[and]]  
means for identifying one or more votes in the anonymous  
message[.]; and  
means for disregarding the electronic voting message in  
response to determining that the client is not  
authorized to vote.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The information handling system claim  
as described in claim [[10]] 9 further comprising:

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means for sending a confirmation message to the client, the confirmation message including a summary of the determination.

12. (Currently Amended) The information handling system claim as described in claim [[10]] 9 wherein the means for determining further comprises:  
means for retrieving the identity of the client; and  
means for comparing the identity of the client to one or more of the plurality of authorized identifiers voters retrieved from [[a]] the voter data store- list.
13. (Original) The information handling system claim as described in claim 9 wherein one of the votes includes a freeform comment.
14. (Original) The information system handling claim as described in claim 9 further comprising:  
means for modifying a total number of votes, the means for modifying further including:  
means for adding the one or more votes to the total number of votes.
15. (Original) The information system handling claim as described in claim 14 further comprising:  
means for sending the total number of votes to a receiving server, wherein the receiving server is adapted to include the total number of votes with other received votes.
16. (Original) The information system handling claim as described in claim 9 wherein the electronic message is selected from the group consisting of a phone-in message, a

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private client email message, a public client email message, a hypertext transfer protocol message, a computer network message, an Active X message, and a Java message.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product stored in a computer operable media for managing an electronic voting message, said computer program product comprising:

means for compiling a voter data list that includes a

plurality of authorized voters;

means for sending the voter data list to a mail forwarding service, wherein the mail forwarding service sends one or more vote requests to one or more of the plurality of authorized voters;

means for receiving the electronic voting message from a client;

means for determining, based on the voter data list, whether the client is authorized to vote;

means for removing an identity of the client from the electronic voting message in response to determining that the client is authorized to vote, wherein the removing results in an anonymous message; [[and]]

means for identifying one or more votes in the anonymous message[.]; and

means for disregarding the electronic voting message in response to determining that the client is not authorized to vote.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim [[18]] 17 further comprising:

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means for sending a confirmation message to the client, the confirmation message including a summary of the determination.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in claim [[18]] 17 wherein the means for determining further comprises:  
means for retrieving the identity of the client; and  
means for comparing the identity of the client to one or more of the plurality of authorized ~~identifiers~~ voters retrieved from ~~[[a]] the voter data store.~~ list.
21. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 17 wherein one of the votes includes a freeform comment.
22. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 17 further comprising:  
means for modifying a total number of votes, the means for modifying further including:  
means for adding the one or more votes to the total number of votes.
23. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 22 further comprising:  
means for sending the total number of votes to a receiving server, wherein the receiving server is adapted to include the total number of votes with other received votes.
24. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 17 wherein the electronic message is selected from the group consisting of a phone-in message, a private

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client email message, a public client email message, a  
hypertext transfer protocol message, a computer network  
message, an Active X message, and a Java message.